

REMARKS

Claims 13, 15-19 and 21-28 are pending. (Claims 1-12, 14 and 20 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on May 8, 2006.) Claim 13 has been amended herein. Claims 26-28 have been added herein. Support for the claim changes and the added claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claim 13 is the sole independent claim.

Support for new Claim 26 can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 14, lines 18-20. Support for new Claims 27 and 28 can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 45, lines 8-10.

Claims 13, 15-19 and 21-25 are believed allowable for the reasons set forth in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on May 8, 2006.

Newly added dependent Claims 26-28 are each dependent from independent Claim 13 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons as pertain to independent Claim 13. Since each of these dependent claims is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

LETTER RE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on May 8, 2006, Applicants inadvertently requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the IDS filed on March 5, 2004 and return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted therewith. Applicants hereby withdraw that request, as it is acknowledged that the Office Action dated August 25, 2005 included an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 from the IDS filed on March 5, 2004, indicating that the art cited therein has been considered.

Applicants' attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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